



4/22/04

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

SB 653 (LELAND)

SB 653 would extend the sunset on the Baseline Environmental Assessment fee that is required to accompany a petition for liability exemption. [A Baseline Environmental Assessment (BEA) is used to determine the environmental condition of the property prior to purchase. The BEA program allows new owners or operators to redevelop and reuse contaminated property without incurring liability for the existing contamination.] The sunset is currently June 5, 2003 and would be extended until June 5, 2005. The fee is \$750.

The extension of this fee allows the DEQ to continue to provide this service to property owners in Michigan. Without this fee, the DEQ would not be able to deliver this service in the timeframe that can be critical to redevelopment decision-making.

Support: Michigan Environmental Council, DEQ.

- Birkholz 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. Fee revenue raised in excess of \$2 million will be returned to the permitholders. If the refund is less than \$50, the refund will be credited to the holder's next year fee, instead of a check being mailed to the holder..
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 653, as amended by the Senate [RC 225: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 591 (Hammerstrom)

SB 1076 (Hammerstrom)

SB 1079 (Johnson)

Support: Greater Detroit Area Health Care, Inc., Greater Detroit Health Council -- The current system is jeopardizing Michigan's federal waiver (allowing for the community based system) and could cost, not just Wayne Co., but all of the state CMH programs. Without the waiver, Medicaid mental health services will be bid out and could be contracted to private, for-profit companies.

Oppose: MI AFL-CIO, AFSCME, MI Assn. of Counties, Macomb Co., Wayne County, Arab-American and Chaldean Council (ACC) – Employee-negotiated contracts would not necessarily follow the change and employees would no longer be county employees with county benefits.

SB 591 would require the Detroit-Wayne County community mental health board to become a CMH authority in order to contract to provide Medicaid mental health and substance abuse services. If the board was not reconstituted as a CMH authority by October 1, 2004, would no longer be eligible to provide Medicaid mental health and substance abuse services. If this occurred, other providers, either other CMH boards or private entities, would take over the provision of Medicaid services for that county.

- SB 591 passed [RC 236: 22 yes, 15 no].

SB 1076 would require the Detroit-Wayne County community mental health services program (CMHSP) to be established as a community mental health (CMH) authority.

- SB 1076 passed [RC 237: 22 yes, 15 no].

SB 1079 would allow the Department of Community Health (DCH) to require the Detroit-Wayne County CMHSP to become a CMH authority as a condition of certification. (Under the Code, CMH authority status is voluntary.)

- SB 1079 passed [RC 238: 22 yes, 15 no].

SB 869 (Birkholz)

SB 869 is part of a 12-bill package that would provide an incentive for qualified start-up businesses to expand. The bill would allow a qualified start-up business to exempt a speculative building, new facility, or a replacement facility from the industrial facility tax for 5 consecutive years beginning on the December 31 in the year in which the qualified start-up business first claimed a single business tax credit as proposed under SB 862 or an income tax credit under SB 863. The exemption would not apply to special assessments or levies on bonds and school taxes. It is estimated that total property taxes paid by businesses that would qualify as a start-up business would equal \$500,000.

- JACOBS 1 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 228: 16 yes, 21 no]. This would require local approval before an exemption could be granted.
- SB 869 passed [RC 229: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 979 (Patterson)

SB 981(THOMAS)

SB 982 (Bishop)

SB 985 (Kuipers)

SB 987 (Patterson)

SB 988 (Patterson)

The bills would provide that, under certain circumstances in which an individual is required to undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician, the examination could be performed by a physician's assistant or certified nurse practitioner. Physician's assistants already may perform required physical exams under some of the statutes the bills would amend. It would be appropriate to extend this ability to physician's assistants under all the statutes, particularly in situations in which nurse practitioners would be allowed to perform the exams.

Support: MI Council for Nurse Practitioners, MI Nurses Assn.

- SB 979 passed [RC 230: 37 yes, 0 no].
- SB 981 passed [RC 231: 37 yes, 0 no].

- SB 982 passed [RC 232: 37 yes, 0 no].
- SB 985 passed [RC 233: 37 yes, 0 no].
- SB 987 passed [RC 234: 37 yes, 0 no].
- SB 988 passed [RC 235: 35 yes, 2 no].

SB 1116 (Van Woerkom)

SB 116 would amend the SBT to allow businesses to deduct income received through grants from the following sources: 1) Technology Tri-Corridor Small Business Innovation Research emerging business fund (MEDC); 2) Small business technology transfer programs under the U.S. small business research and development act. These are basically grants in emerging growth areas: the MEDC program is in the areas of automotive, life sciences, and homeland security. The Federal grants focus on helping small businesses explore growth opportunities. Companies in Michigan received \$27 million in Federal grants and \$1 million in Tech Tri-Corridor grants.

- SB 1116 passed [RC 227: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 4927 (Ward)

HB 4927 would require the Secretary of State to develop and issue a State-sponsored Thin Blue Line fund-raising registration plate and matching collector plate; and require donations collected from the sale of the plate to be credited to the Thin Blue Line of Michigan to provide assistance and support to the families of injured or deceased law enforcement officers.

- HB 4927 passed with IE [RC 226: 30 yes, 7 no].